

# PER

**PERSPICACIOUSNESS**. *n. f.* [from *perspicacius*.] Quickness of sight.  
**PERSPICACITY**. *n. f.* [from *perspicacitas*, Fr.] Quickness of sight.  
 He that laid the foundations of the earth cannot be excluded the fecrecy of the mountains; nor can there any thing escape the *perspicacity* of those eyes, which were before light, and in whose optics there is no opacity. *Brown.*  
**PERSPICIENCE**. *n. f.* [from *perspicere*, Lat.] The act of looking sharply. *Diſt.*  
**PERSPICILL**. *n. f.* [from *perspicillum*, Lat.] A glaſs through which things are viewed; an optic glaſs.

Let truth be  
 Ne'er ſo far diſtant, yet chronology,  
 Sharp-lighted as the eagle's eye, that can  
 Out-ſtare the broad-beam'd day's meridian,  
 Will have a *perspicill* to find her out,  
 And through the night of error and dark doubt,  
 Diſcern the dawn of truth's eternal ray,  
 As when the roſy morn buds into day. *Craſlow.*  
 The *perspicill*, as well as the needle, hath enlarged the habitable world. *Glanvill's Sceps.*

**PERSPICUITY**. *n. f.* [from *perspicuitas*, Fr. from *perspicuus*.] Clearneſs to the mind; eaſineſs to be underſtood; freedom from obſcurity or ambiguity.

The verſes containing piecepts, have not ſo much need of ornament as of *perspicuity*. *Dryden.*  
*Perspicuity* conſiſts in the uſing of proper terms for the thoughts, which a man would have paſs from his own mind into that of another's. *Locke's Thoughts on Reading.*

2. Tranſparency; tranſlucency; diaphaneity.  
 As for diaphaneity and *perspicuity* it enjoyeth that moſt eminently, as having its earthy and falinous parts ſo exactly reſolved, that its body is leſt imporous. *Brown.*

**PERSPICUOUS**. *adj.* [from *perspicuus*, Latin.]

1. Tranſparent; clear; ſuch as may be ſeen through; diaphanous; tranſlucent; not opaque.

As contrary cauſes produce the like effects, ſo even the ſame proceed from black and white; for the clear and *perspicuous* body effecteth white, and that white a black. *Peaſham.*  
 2. Clear to the underſtanding; not obſcure; not ambiguous.

The purpoſe is *perspicuous* even as ſubſtance, *Shakeſp.*

Whole groſſineſs little characters ſum up.  
 All this is ſo *perspicuous*, ſo undeniable, that I need not be over induſtrious in the proof of it. *Sprat's Sermons.*

**PERSPICUOUSLY**. *adv.* [from *perspicuus*.] Clearly; not obſcurely.

The caſe is no ſooner made than reſolved; if it be made not enwrapped, but plainly and *perspicuously*. *Bacon.*

**PERSPICUOUSNESS**. *n. f.* [from *perspicuus*.] Clearneſs; freedom from obſcurity.

**PERSPIRABLE**. *adj.* [from *perspire*.]

1. Such as may be emitted by the cuticular pores.  
 That this attraction is performed by effluvia, is plain and granted by moſt; for electric ſticks will not commonly attract, unleſs they attract or become *perspirable*. *Brown.*

In an animal under a courſe of hard labour, aliment too vaporous or *perspirable* will ſubject it to too ſtrong a perſpiration, debility and ſudden death. *Arbutnot on Aliments.*

2. Perſpiring; emitting perſpiration. Not proper.

Hair cometh not upon the palms of the hands or ſoles of the feet, which are parts more *perspirable*: and children are not hairy, for that their ſkins are moſt *perspirable*. *Bacon.*

**PERSPIRATION**. *n. f.* [from *perspire*.] Excretion by the cuticular pores.

Inſenſible *perſpiration* is the laſt and moſt perfect action of animal digeſtion. *Arbutnot on Aliments.*

**PERSPIRATIVE**. *adj.* [from *perspire*.] Performing the act of perſpiration.

**TO PERSPIRE**. *v. n.* [from *perspire*, Lat.]

1. To perform excretion by the cuticular pores

2. To be excreted by the ſkin.

Water, milk, whey taken without much exerciſe, ſo as to make them *perspire*, relax the belly. *Arbutnot.*

**TO PERSTRINGE**. *v. a.* [from *perstringere*, Lat.] To graze upon; to glance upon.

**PERSUADABLE**. *adj.* [from *persuade*.] Such as may be perſuaded.

**TO PERSUADE**. *v. a.* [from *persuadeo*, Lat. *persuader*, Fr.]

1. To bring to any particular opinion.

Let every man be fully *perſuaded* in his own mind. *Romans.*

We are *perſuaded* better things of you, and things that accompany ſalvation. *Hebrews vi. 9.*

Joy over them that are *perſuaded* to ſalvation. *2 Eſdras vii.*

Let a man be ever ſo well *perſuaded* of the advantages of virtue, yet, till he hungers and thirſts after righteouſneſs, his will will not be determined to any action in purſuit of this conſeſſed great good. *Locke.*

Men ſhould ſeriouſly *perſuade* themſelves, that they have here no abiding place, but are only in their paſſage to the heavenly Jeruſalem. *Wake's Preparation for Death.*

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2. To influence by argument or expoſtulation. *Persuader* ſeems rather applicable to the paſſions, and *argument* to the reaſon; but this is not always obſerved.

Philoclea's beauty not only *perſuaded*, but ſo *perſuaded* as all hearts muſt yield: Pamela's beauty uſed violence, and ſuch as no heart could reſiſt. *Sidney.*

They that were with Simon, being led with covetouſneſs, were *perſuaded* for money. *2 Mac. x. 20.*

To ſit croiſ-leg'd, or with our fingers peſtinatèd, is accounted bad, and friends will *perſuade* us from it. *Brown.*

I ſhould be glad, if I could *perſuade* him to write ſuch another critick on any thing of mine; for when he condemns any of my poems, he makes the world have a better opinion of them. *Dryden.*

3. To inculcate by argument or expoſtulation.

To children, afraid of vain images, we *perſuade* confidence by making them handle and look nearer ſuch things. *Taylor.*

4. To treat by perſuaſion. A mode of ſpeech not in uſe.

Twenty merchants have all *perſuaded* with him;

But none can drive him from the envious plea  
 Of forfeiture. *Shakeſp.*

**PERSUA'DER**. *n. f.* [from *persuade*.] One who influences by perſuaſion; an importunate adviſer.

The earl, ſpeaking in that imperious language wherein the king had written, did not irritate the people, but make them conceive by the haughtineſs of delivery of the king's errand, that himſelf was the author or principal *perſuader* of that counſel. *Bacon's Henry VII.*

He ſoon is mov'd

By ſuch *perſuaders* as are held upright. *Daniel's Civil War.*

Hunger and thirſt at once,

Pow'rful *perſuaders*! quicken'd at the ſcent  
 Of that alluring fruit, urg'd me ſo keen. *Milton.*

**PERSUA'SIBLE**. *adj.* [from *persuadibilis*, Lat. *persuadibile*, Fr. from *persuadeo*, Latin.] To be influenced by perſuaſion.

It makes us apprehend our own intereſt in that obedience, makes us tractable and *persuadible*, contrary to that brutiſh ſtubborneſs of the horſe and mule, which the Pſalmiſt reproaches. *Government of the Houſe.*

**PERSUA'SIBLENESS**. *n. f.* [from *persuadibile*.] The quality of being flexible by perſuaſion.

**PERSUASION**. *n. f.* [from *persuasio*, Fr. from *persuadeo*, Lat.]

1. The act of perſuading; the act of influencing by expoſtulation; the act of gaining or attempting the paſſions.

If I prove thy fortune, Polydore, to conquer,  
 For thou haſt all the arts of fine *perſuaſion*,  
 Truſt me, and let me know thy love's ſucceſs. *Ormy.*

2. The ſtate of being perſuaded; opinion.

The moſt certain token of evident goodneſs is, if the general *perſuaſion* of all men does ſo account it.

You are a great deal abuſ'd in too bold a *perſuaſion*. *Shakeſp.*

When we have no other certainty of being in the right, but our own *perſuaſion* that we are ſo; this may often be but making one error the gage for another. *Gov. of the Tongue.*

The obedient and the men of piety ſhall ride upon the clouds, and triumph over their preſent imperfections; till *perſuaſion* paſs into knowledge, and knowledge advance into aſſurance, and all come at length to be completed in the beatific viſion. *South's Sermons.*

**PERSUA'SIVE**. *adj.* [from *persuasive*, Fr. from *persuadeo*.] Having the power of perſuading; having influence on the paſſions.

In prayer, we do not ſo much reſpect what precepts art delivereth, touching the method of *perſuaſive* utterance in the preſence of great men, as what doth moſt avail to our own edification in piety and godly zeal. *Haker.*

Let Martius reſume his farther diſcourſe, as well for the *perſuaſive* as for the conſult, touching the means that may conduce unto the enterprize. *Bacon.*

Notwithſtanding the weight and ſtineſs of the arguments to perſuade, and the light of man's intellect to meet this *perſuaſive* evidence with a ſuitable aſſent, no aſſent followed, nor were men thereby actually perſuaded. *South's Sermons.*

**PERSUA'SIVELY**. *adv.* [from *persuasive*.] In ſuch a manner as to perſuade.

The ſerpent with me  
*Perſuaſively* hath to prevail'd, that I  
 Have alſo taſted. *Milton.*

Many who live upon their eſtates cannot ſo much as tell a ſtory, much leſs ſpeak clearly and *perſuaſively* in any buſineſs. *Locke on Education.*

**PERSUA'SIVENESS**. *n. f.* [from *persuasive*.] Influence on the paſſions.

An opinion of the ſucceſſfulneſs of the work being as neceſſary to found a purpoſe of undertaking it, as either the authority of commands, or the *perſuaſivenes*s of promiſe, or punyency of menaces can be. *Flammant's Vindication.*

**PERSUA'SORY**. *adj.* [from *persuasorius*, Lat. from *persuadeo*.] Having the power to perſuade.

Neither is this *perſuaſory*. *Brown.*

# PER

**PERT**. *adj.* [from *pert*, Welch; *pert*, Dutch; *appert*, French.]

1. Lively; brisk; ſmart.

Awake the *pert* and nimble ſpirit of mirth;

Turn melancholy forth to funerals. *Shakeſp.*

On the tawny ſands and ſhelves,

Trip the *pert* fairies and the dapper elves. *Milton.*

2. Saucy; petulant; with bold and garrulous loquacity.

All ſervants might challenge the ſame liberty, and grow *pert* upon their maſters; and when this ſaucineſs became univerſal, what leſs miſchief could be expected than an old Scythian rebellion? *Collier on Pride.*

A lady bids me in a very *pert* manner mind my own affairs, and not pretend to meddle with their linnen. *Addiſon.*

Scarce liſt'ned to their idle chat,  
 Further than ſometimes by a frown,

When they grew *pert*, to pull them down. *Swift.*

**TO PERTAIN**. *v. n.* [from *pertinere*, Lat.] To belong; to relate.

As men hate thoſe that affect that honour by ambition, which *pertaineth* not to them, ſo are they much more odious, who through fear betray the glory which they have. *Hayward.*

A cheveron or raſter of an houſe, a very honourable bearing, is never ſeen in the coat of a king, becauſe it *pertaineth* to a mechanical profeſſion. *Peaſham.*

**PERTERBRATION**. *n. f.* [from *perterbratio*, Lat.] The act of boring through.

**PERTINACIOUS**. *adj.* [from *pertinax*.]

1. Obſtinate; ſtubborn; perverſely reſolute.

One of the diſſenters appeared to Dr. Sanderson to be ſo bold, ſo troubleſome and illogical in the diſpute, as forced him to ſay, that he had never met with a man of more *pertinacious* confidence and leſs abilities. *Walton.*

2. Reſolute; conſtant; ſteady.

Diligence is a ſteady, conſtant and *pertinacious* ſtudy, that naturally leads the ſoul into the knowledge of that, which at firſt ſeemed locked up from it. *South's Sermons.*

**PERTINACIOUSLY**. *adv.* [from *pertinaciously*.] Obſtinately; ſtubbornly.

They deny that freedom to me, which they *pertinaciously* challenge to themſelves. *King Charles.*

Metals *pertinaciously* reſiſt all tranſmutation; and though one would think they were turned into a different ſubſtance, yet they do but as it were lurk under a vizard. *Ray.*

Others have fought to eaſe themſelves of all the evil of affliction by diſputing ſubtilly againſt it, and *pertinaciously* maintaining, that afflictions are no real evils, but only in imagination. *Tillotſon's Sermons.*

**PERTINACITY**. *n. f.* [from *pertinacia*, Lat. from *pertinax*.]

1. Obſtinacy; ſtubborneſs.

In this reply, was included a very groſs miſtake, and if with *pertinacity* maintained, a capital error. *Brown.*

2. Reſolution; conſtancy.

**PERTINACY**. *n. f.* [from *pertinax*.]

1. Obſtinacy; ſtubborneſs; perſiſtency.

Their *pertinacy* is ſuch, that when you drive them out of one form, they aſſume another. *Duppa.*

It holds forth the *pertinacy* of ill fortune, in purſuing people into their graves. *L'Eſtrange.*

2. Reſolution; ſteadineſs; conſtancy.

St. Gorgonia prayed with paſſion and *pertinacy*, till ſhe obtained relief. *Taylor.*

They with a *pertinacy* unmatched,  
 For new recruits of danger watch'd. *Hudibras.*

**PERTINENCE**. *n. f.* [from *pertinere*, Lat.] Juſtneſs of relation.

**PERTINENCY**. *n. f.* [from *pertinencia*, Lat.] Juſtneſs of relation to the matter in hand; propriety to the purpoſe; appoſitenes.

I have ſhewn the ſtineſs and *pertinency* of the apoſtle's diſcourſe to the perſons he addreſſed to, whereby it appeareth that he was no babbler, and did not talk at random. *Bentley.*

**PERTINENT**. *adj.* [from *pertinens*, Lat. *pertinent*, Fr.]

1. Related to the matter in hand; juſt to the purpoſe; not uſeleſs to the end propoſed; appoſite; not foreign from the thing intended.

My caution was more *pertinent*  
 Than the rebuke you give it. *Shakeſp. Coriolanus.*

I ſet down, out of experience in buſineſs, and converſation in books, what I thought *pertinent* to this buſineſs. *Bacon.*

Here I ſhall ſeem a little to digreſs, but you will by and by find it *pertinent*.

If he could find *pertinent* treatiſes of it in books, that would reach all the particulars of a man's behaviour; his own ill-faſhioned example would ſpoil all. *Locke.*

2. Relating; regarding; concerning. In this ſenſe the word now uſed is *pertaining*.

Men ſhall have juſt cauſe, when any thing *pertinent* unto faith and religion is doubted of, the more willingly to incline their minds towards that which the ſentence of ſo grave, wife and learned in that faculty ſhall judge moſt found. *Hooker.*

**PERTINENTLY**. *adv.* [from *pertinent*.] Appoſitely; to the purpoſe.

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Be modeſt and reſerved in the preſence of thy betters, ſpeaking little, answering *pertinently*, not interpoling without leave of reaſon. *Taylor's Rule of Living.*

**PERTINENTNESS**. *n. f.* [from *pertinent*.] Appoſitenes. *Diſt.*

**PERTINGENT**. *adj.* [from *pertingens*, Lat.] Reaching to; touching.

**PERTLY**. *adv.* [from *pert*.]

1. Briskly; ſmartly.

I find no other difference betwixt the common town-wits and the downright country ſouls, than that the firſt are *pertly* in the wrong, with a little more gaiety; and the laſt neither in the right nor the wrong. *Pope.*

2. Saucily; petulantly.

Yonder walls, that *pertly* front your town,  
 Yond towers, whoſe wanton tops do buſt the clouds,  
 Muſt kiſs their own feet. *Shakeſp.*

When you *pertly* raiſe your ſnout,  
 Fleer, and gibe, and laugh, and flout;

This, among Hibernian allies, *Swift.*  
 For ſheer wit, and humour paſſes.

**PERTNESS**. *n. f.* [from *pert*.]

1. Brisk folly; ſaucineſs; petulance.

Dulneſs delighted ey'd the lively dunce,  
 Remembering the herſelf was *perſneſs* once. *Dunciad.*

2. Petty livelineſs; ſpritelineſs without force, dignity or ſolidity.

There is in Shaftsbury's works a lively *perſneſs* and a parade of literature; but it is hard that we ſhould be bound to admire the reveries. *Watts's Improvement of the Mind.*

**PERTASIENT**. *adj.* [from *pertransiens*, Lat.] Paſſing over. *Diſt.*

**TO PERTURB**. *v. a.* [from *perturbo*, Latin.]

**TO PERTURBATE**. *v. a.* [from *perturbare*, Latin.]

1. To diſquiet; to diſturb; to deprive of tranquility.

Reit, reit, *perſurbed* ſpirit. *Shakeſp.*

His waſting fleſh with anguiſh burns,  
 And his *perſurbed* ſoul within him mourns. *Sandys.*

2. To diſorder; to confuſe; to put out of regularity.

They are content to ſuffer the penalties annexed, rather than *perſurb* the publick peace. *King Charles.*

The interſent and brutal faculties controul'd the ſuggeſtions of truth; pleaſure and profit overwaying the inſtructions of honeſty, and ſenſuality *perſurbing* the reaſonable commands of virtue. *Brown's Vulgar Errors.*

The acceſſion or ceſſation of bodies from the earth's ſurface *perſurb* not the equilibration of either hemisphere. *Brown.*

**PERTURBATION**. *n. f.* [from *perturbatio*, Lat. *perturbation*, Fr.]

1. Diſquiet of mind; deprivation of tranquility.

Love was not in their looks, either to God,  
 Nor to each other; but apparent guilt,  
 And ſhame, and *perſurbation*, and deſpair. *Milton.*

The ſoul as it is more immediately and ſtrongly affected by this part, ſo doth it maniſeſt all its paſſions and <